

CAPTAIN CHARLES WILLOUGHBY, PORT TOWNSEND,

WASH., AUGUST 6, 1895.

(Of the Tug "Wanderer")

(Interviewed by Richard Rathbun).

Q. You were with your father where, at Neah Bay?

A. Neah Bay, Quinault, on the outer coast.

Q. When were you at those places?

A. Well, at Quinault it was along in 1884 or 1885.

Q. Then at Neah Bay?

A. At Neah Bay, well, my residence is down here now at the mouth of the Osette River. From Neah Bay to the westward I have been there steady for 5 or 6 years. My father was agent at Neah Bay first. He went there in 1878. He was there 5 years, and we came up here and were here in the neighborhood of a year, and then he went to Quinault and I was there with him.

Q. Then you have taken up your residence at Osette since that?

A. Yes, sir; it was in March, 1889.

Q. What did you have to do with fish in your father's time, and since?

A. Well, not very much. He used to put up a great deal of fish there for the school, perhaps 2 or 3 tons every year.

Q. Was there an Indian school there?

A. Yes, sir; a reservation there. And then packing fish for the traders at Neah Bay; he used to put up anywhere from 50 to 100 bbls. every year.

Q. This would be salmon?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Not halibut?

A. No, sir; there is something about a halibut that it will not salt, and it will not cook after it is salted. The halibut banks are off northwest of Cape Flattery. Then, in the Osette I have been putting up salmon, salting and smoking them, ever since I have been there, a few barrels every year, and one variety in particular, known as the quinnault salmon, that we have there.

Q. Then at Quinnault, did you do anything with fish there?

A. Only for our own use.

Q. In the Quinnault River what kind of salmon did you have?

A. Well, they were these small salmon known as the Quinnault salmon; I don't know as there is any other name for them or not.

Q. The same as the tyee?

A. They are a small salmon, about 5 lbs.

Q. Were they the same as the quinnat or spring salmon? Is it the spring salmon?

A. Yes; they begin running about the middle of April, and they run until about the first of July?

Q. Didn't they run later at all?

A. Well, there was a salmon you would catch about one out of a hundred when the fall run was running, beginning about the end of this month; that is in the Osette River, once in a while you would find a straggler of these little quinnault salmon coming in, about one out of a hundred. You can tell them from the others; there is no other salmon I ever saw that is as red a meat, and they are transparent; you can hold them out and look right through them.

Q. In the Quinnault River what fish follow the quinnault salmon?

A. It was a large salmon, known down there as the chinook salmon.

Q. When did they come in?

A. They were coming in I guess in August.

Q. They did not run in the spring, the chinook?

A. No; I think the steelhead was the only spring salmon. They come in late in the winter and early in the spring.

Q. Then you had only 3 kinds of salmon running up there?

A. That is all I know of.

Q. The steelhead, quinnault and chinook?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How was it in the Osette River?

A. Well, there the quinnault salmon comes first in the spring, in April, until the first of July; then the river is low and the fall salmon show up off the mouth of the river, but dont come in any more than right in the mouth in tide water, and go out again; and they stay there until the first runs in September, along the 15th or 20th, and then they begin running, and they run up until pretty near Christmas I think. Oh, they are a salmon that will average about 8 lbs. We call them down there silver salmon. I dont know whether they are or not.

Is the silver salmon a white meat or light pink, or is he a red salmon?

Q. He must be a red salmon, because he is canned extensively, but I think he is lighter than the chinook.

A. Well, this was a little lighter. I guess that is what it is, silver salmon. Well, he will run up until about Christmas and a few dog salmon and humpbacks will come in along with them, and then begins the steelhead.

Q. And they begin?

A. They begin about in February, sometime along the latter part of February, and they run up I think until the small spring salmon begin running, and then May down at the Osette we begin catching the salmon; what we call these quinnault salmon in May; as the river is high, we will not bother setting a net, and we will stretch a net across the river and catch the steelheads going out to the salt water; we will have as many steelheads in the up-river side of the net, nearly, as we will have in the lower side of small salmon.

Q. When did you fish, just at that time only?

A. Just at that time.

Q. And did not fish in the fall or summer?

A. Well, we would fish part of August and part of September.

Q. That would be the chinook?

A. That would be the silver side. We have no chinook in the Osette; I never caught one.

Q. But you do in the Quinnault?

A. Oh, yes; they catch lots of them there.

Q. Did you fish in the Quinnault?

A. I never fished there myself; it was done by Indians, -- traps and spearing.

Q. In fishing in the Osette in the fall, did you ever get any other salmon then coming down stream?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever go up to the headwaters of either of those streams?

A. Yes, sir; both of them.

Q. Did you ever find many dead fish after spawning?

A. Not many; the majority of the fish in the Osette I think spawn in the lake. It is one peculiarity about the quinnault salmon, there are none in any stream on the whole coast

that has not a lake at its head, and there are only 3 streams have a lake, and those 3 are the Quinnault, Osette, and one on the British side; it is above Nitinat. It goes in just to the east of the Nitinat. We call it the Chuckway.

Q. Well, now, what kind of salmon did you use to get at Neah Bay?

A. Well, the Neah Bay salmon is the poorest salmon that you will come across anywhere. They are a small salmon; they will weigh perhaps 3 or 4 lbs., and they are dry as a chip.

Q. When would you get them?

A. They are catching them now; the Straits are full of them. They are late this year. Last year they began running in June, and this year, well, we have been trolling for them down there off and on for a couple of months and the first we caught was 3 weeks ago.

Q. How much will they weigh?

A. Oh, 3 or 4 lbs. They have rather a peaked tail, and the belly is nothing more than skin, no meat to the belly at all, and they are a small fish.

Q. Dont you find other salmon off there?

A. We never catch any other. Now, last year the Indians caught a larger salmon off there; very few.

Q. Where did you fish there, close inshore.

A. Well, yes; out on a line outside of the bay; the outer line of the bay, and all the way out around the light house here, 10 or 15 miles off shore.

Q. Simply trolling?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what the sockeye salmon is?

A. No, sir, I dont. We have none around below here. The Indians, a great many of them, go to the Fraser River, and there is where they catch sockeye, and they tell me there is no other salmon like them around Neah Bay. They go over there fishing, and sometimes they will bring back half a barrel of them salted, so it shows they cannot catch them there at the bay.

Q. You dont get the chinook salmon there at all?

A. No chinook salmon.

Q. During what season do you get the small salmon that begin running the last of June or first of July? How long are they there? What

is the season for them?

A. Oh, the end of this month.

Q. Is that all?

A. That is all.

Q. During July and August?

A. Well, only during August this year.

Last year they began running in June. There was more in June last year than there is this year now.

Q. Are there no other salmon there later?

A. No, sir; the Indians never catch any other salmon. I never knew of salmon coming in there outside of this small run. They seem to all go up by for the Sound, and those that dont go up the Sound stop outside in the coast streams. You see, here is the Quilliet, and here is the Hoh and the Queetshee and the Quinnault, and they are all large streams and lots of fish in all of them.

Q. Now, the sockeye evidently come in through the Straits, and the first place at which they are found abundantly is at Becher Bay, and the thing I was trying to do was to trace them farther out. Now, at Point Angeles they say that they occasionally catch a few

there, but they are so rare as not to make an item in their fishery. Now, there is a cannery just established there by Mr. Hume and he was in hopes of getting some sockeye on that side, but he has obtained none and he is now relying for his sockeye on Becher Bay. Then later he expects to get humpback and silver salmon there at Port Angeles. Now, Captain Gaudin, of Victoria, he used to cruise through here a good deal, and used to visit this part of the coast a great deal, and he thought the sockeye came in through there and then struck across here, but your statement -- of course you have seen the Indians there for a number of years and know perfectly well what has been taken and brought there, and you have seen it all the year, and that would show conclusively that they did not come inside where the fishermen get them.

A. What kind of a looking fish is this sockeye?

Q. The sockeye that go up the Fraser River are a fish that will average about 7 lbs., and it is a very graceful, pretty shape, with no spots; a well shaped head, and dark colored meat. It enters the Fraser River from the first to the

10th of July. At Becher Bay it is found by the first of July or the latter part of June, and it is very regular in size.

A. I know the Indians bring back the sockeye and that is the first I ever heard of them. They bring them back salted.

Q. I should place a good deal of reliance upon your statement, because it is based upon actual residence there. Are the fish taken at Neah Bay spotted?

A. No, sir. They look more like a silver salmon, only they are too small for the silver salmon.

Q. They might be young sockeye playing around there in the sea, but that would not answer this question.

A. Well, they seem to have spawn in them.

Q. You dont know where they run up into the river?

A. No, sir.

Q. They are different from the salmon in the outer rivers are they?

A. Oh, yes. They are not down with us at all. I dont know where they go to. I think however, they must go up the Sound here some

where. They catch a great many salmon around Seattle, and they are a small salmon, I think, and the chances are they are the same ones.

Q. When do they do the most of their fishing around Seattle?

A. It is along late in the fall, I think.

Q. Of course, they are not humpbacks?

You know the humpback?

A. Well, there are lots of humpback up there in the streams, up the Sound.

Q. Yes, but I mean, you know the humpback?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And those at the Sound would not be the Humpback?

A. No. The first humpback I ever saw was 2 years ago, fishing down home, and I caught one in the Osette River, and that is the only one I ever caught, so it shows there are not many there, and I got him out of the net to look at him, and they are much like a camel.

Q. You know the dog salmon?

A. Well, that is a salmon by itself -- a species by itself.

Q. Oh, yes; it has red blotches on the outside.

A. Well, these other salmon there, fall salmon down there you know, after they have been in fresh water they get red.

Q. Yes; but these are red regularly.

A. Well, we have none of them down there.

Q. They are terrible things to fight. It would seem more likely then, that the sockeye come in mid-channel; come in where they would not be seen -- perhaps low down and do not appear at the surface until they get well into the Sound.

A. Do they catch them in Becher Bay with hooks; trolls?

Q. Yes; I think there are a few nets set there -- one or two -- I dont know what they call them, but they are allowed to set them for family use, but they are caught mainly by trolling.

A. Well, it is evident if there was many of them coming in the Straits here, if they were up to the surface of the water there would be some of them caught, because there is all these boats and the Indians are fishing down there always, and these tugs always have a troll out, and all they catch is this one kind of salmon,

an occasional salmon. Now, this time down there we caught one; it was a short chubby salmon, very deep from the back to the belly, and the meat was a light pink, and he was rather fat too.

Q. The sockeye is very dark, darker than the chinook.

A. Well, that would be something like our spring salmon, wouldn't it?

Q. Yes. Do your spring salmon in the Osette have spots?

A. No, sir. The sockeye has?

Q. No.

A. No, sir; he is a clear skinned fish, very dark, and the largest, they will only weigh about 4 or 5 lbs. These are very round, plump, and pretty blue on the back.

Q. Well, they are the blue backs of the Columbia River, are they not?

A. No; they are a different fish from those.

Q. Are you sure?

A. Well, there was one of the Mr. Humes down at the Osette and was looking after the fish interest at the World's Fair. He stopped

with me over night; he was a heavy set man about 45 or 50 years of age. Well, he was talking salmon, and he is acquainted with the quinnault salmon. They put up a cannery on the Quinnault River, and after the buildings were up -- they did not get the machinery there -- and a great lot of charcoal burned; the Indians saw they had him on the hip and struck for a price, and they wanted something outrageous and he dropped everything and went back to the Columbia River. There is a difference between them and the Columbia River blue back. and one way I find out about fishes; when I want to find out anything about the fish I always go to the Indians, because they will tell you straight, as that is all they know is fish. And they are down at the Columbia River fishing, and they know the quinnault salmon, and you ask them if they catch that fish on the Columbia River and they will tell you, no.

Q. Of course, salmon in different localities differ; on the Atlantic coast we have only one species of salmon, and people who are well acquainted with them can distinguish the difference between salmon caught in different

places; they will differ in size and proportion; some will be longer and others shorter and chubbier, and the color varies; and so it may be here. You may have the sockeye distributed along the greater part of the coast, and differing so that ordinarily they would not be regarded as the same, but still that does not make any difference with regard to this run I want to get at in the Straits, because you would know what they were if you had seen them and the Indians would know.

A. These spring salmon have a very small head. They run out very full, the breast and shoulders, and a little bit of a head right on the end.

Q. How do you reach those places out there?

A. Well, there is a trail from Neah Bay down to Osette.

Q. You have to go by horseback?

A. Well, no; take a canoe from Neah Bay down.

Q. Outside in the open water?

A. Yes, outside.

Q. Is it not pretty rough to go outside?

A. Well, no; outside it is as smooth as it

is in this bay. We have been down there now the last 3 or 4 trips and it is just as smooth as it is in this Strait. We have been fishing and in the whaling business; the Indians would catch whales and we would tow them in for them. We towed in 2.

Q. Is there any smoke down there?

A. There is when the wind blows down the Straits, but as soon as the winds blow on shore it clears it up.

Q. There are no boats touching at these small places?

A. No, sir. The Garland runs out to Quilliute once a month I guess. Then there is a trail from Clallam and you can take horses there. There is a good trail from Clallam to Osette Lake. There is one thing about these quinnaults that I never saw in any other fish. Their entrails you can take and pull the fat off them just like you would off hogs. There will be great big gobs of it, pure white fat, and they cook them in their own fat. And they are a different flavor. I always was a great fish eater, but I have no use for any other

salmon now, and I will almost starve before I will eat salmon outside of these little quinnault. They are the only ones we salt for our own use. We always salt a lot of fall salmon and sell them and give them away.

Q. What did you say was the difference between the quinnault and the Neah Bay salmon in appearance?

A. Well, the neah Bay salmon the back is more of a dark brown color, and then down on the tail his scales are silvery, while the quinnault salmon is rather a blue back, a nice color on the sides, and he is a different shape altogether he is a chubby, plump fish, while the other one is a slim, peaked sort of a fish and his head is much larger, although the fish is not any larger, but his head is larger. The quinnault salmon has a very small head.

Q. I dont know; the salmon in every river seem to be different.

A. Well, you take our fall run down there, and as little as I know about salmon I can pick out half a dozen salmon of the same size. The main run is all alike, but then there will be half a dozen different varieties; that is on the

Osette. They are a different looking fish altogether. Over right across in San Juan harbor on Vancouver Island the Indians catch a salmon there -- why it is a monstrous great thing. I never saw but one, and as I remember that fish it was between 4 and 5 feet long. They brought some fish over once to the Bay there, and they brought one up to the point where the school was and father bought it from them, and they took the fish and threw it in a sink that was outside the children's dining room -- a sink about 5 feet long, ^{that} and 3 or 4 school children used to get into and wash dishes -- and they put the fish in there to clean it and it came very near filling up the sink.

Q. That was a chinook was it not?

A. I dont know what it was. It was a much larger fish than they catch in the Columbia I think. It must have weighed 100 lbs. This one had monstrous great teeth. It had been in the river sometime and its teeth began to develop. It had teeth on it like a Newfoundland dog. Well, you never see them in any of the other of these coast streams; they just seem to go in there. Next time I go back to the Bay I

will see some of these Indians and I will inquire about the sockeye and these Osette salmon; the Indians down there know them, and call them bequot. There is one thing about those salmon that seems strange to me, that is spawning in the lakes.

Q. Well, the sockeye goes into the lakes sometimes at any rate.

A. Well, there none of these salmon known in the Quilliute, and in the Queetshee there are none, but we get them in the Quinnault Dont get them in the Hoh. Then you come here between the Osette and Cape Flattery there are 2 streams, the Wyalet? and Suez, ~~xxx~~ and they dont run in there; they pass all these streams and they stop in at the Osette and pass on by these other streams and go right straight across to Chuckway, with a lake on it; a stream that on the ripples there is not over 8 or 10 inches of water. They go right by all the streams that have no lake and go into these 2. I hunted and trapped in here above the lake all winter on the streams entering in the lake, and never found a salmon up these small streams. The Indians catch them in the lake all winter.

They have got certain places. They have a spawning ground here up in this end of the lake, and have another one down here a little farther, and they go there with trap nets and catch them, but they dont catch them on the eastern side, and on the eastern side is where all the streams are coming in. There are no streams coming in on the west side. But the fall salmon, steel heads, you find those up above the lake in the streams.

Q. According to that then you would judge that the quinnault ran only into streams that had lakes for them to go into?

A. Yes, sir, and I think they spawn in salt water. Now, you see there is about 50 or 60 miles there they come up the coast and they pass these nice big streams and go to the Osette, which is only a small stream.

Q. Why do you say they come up the coast?

A. Well, I dont know as they come up the coast, but a person would naturally think they did. You see they will catch 1 or 2 in the Queetshee River and I never heard of any being caught in the Quilliute or the Hoh. It would seem rather funny if they came straight across

the ocean and struck in here.

Q. It is a very puzzling question indeed.

A. Where they go to and where they come from.

Q. Yes.

A. You take it in the mouth of the Osette when the spring salmon are coming in along in May you will see thousands and thousands of little young salmon playing around the mouth of the river, all ready to go out to sea. They will all come there inside of 10 days. They will show up, and inside the end of that time they will disappear, almost in a day.

Q. You mean the young salmon leave the river in May?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And that is the time the quinnaults are coming back?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What are the young ones that are going out?

A. I could not say. There is 3 runs of salmon that come in there and spawn at different seasons of the year, and you only see young salmon in this one season, and I dont know which

run it belongs to. And they are little bits of things, probably the fish of the previous winter. I always supposed they were the spawn of the fall salmon; or they might be the steel-head run.

Q. When do the quinnault salmon spawn?

A. I dont know, I am sure.

Q. Do the Indians do anything toward disturbing their spawning grounds?

A. No more than if that is their spawning ground where they go and catch them in the lake; they go there and catch a few. I suppose if they catch the fish they do some harm.

Q. Well, catching the fish alone is not harmful, but it is disturbing the eggs. Before the fish spawn it does not make any difference, but the greatest trouble is afterwards.

A. These that are caught down there in the winter when the Indians catch them have no spawn in them. They prefer them to dry then, as there is less work about it.

Q. Well, can you dry the salmon as it is entering the river?

A. Oh, yes; smoke it.

Q. Do the Indians smoke their salmon

at all?

A. Oh, yes; that is the way; they will cut them very fine and just string them up overhead and let the smoke from the fire cure them.

Q. Does the smoke cure them, or is it merely drying them?

A. Just drying them, that is all.

Q. Of course, when you smoke them -- ?

A. Oh, we have a regular smoke-house.

Q. How many kinds of trout occur in the Osette?

A. Well, I could not say. There is two, that is all I know of.

Q. The common speckled trout?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you call that, just trout?

A. Well, there was a gentleman down there fishing and he was quite a sportsman and seemed to know all about sport and there was one variety he caught, -- that is in the main Osette River -- he called it Dolly Varden trout, and then there is a trout that are in the streams going into the lake, they seem to be a different fish. Then we have a fish in there, they run in schools and they are about the size of a trout, that is they are from 6 to 8 inches long.

I never saw one -- between 7 and 8 inches long is the longest I ever saw; they are all pretty much of a size. They are perfect little salmon. They run in schools and they go up the streams above the lake, and they get red like the salmon and they have got little bills and hooked teeth and they will fight; but they will be in schools, and that is the only difference. They are a fine little fish to eat.

Q. It is probably the fish they call the salmon trout is it not?

A. Oh, no; it is not the salmon trout at all.

Q. When do they go up?

A. In November. I don't know when they come in from the salt water, or if they do come in from the salt water, but I think they must.

Q. Where do you see them generally?

A. In the streams above the lake. They are going up the same as salmon and we catch them up there and spear them and knock them over with a club and get them that way. I salted 2 or 3 and was going to send them to the Smithsonian Institution, and this man came along and I gave them to him and he did not know what

they were, but said he thought they were what they call landlocked salmon. These, you will see 500 of them all in a school and there will not be one longer than 8 inches, and the most of them are about 7. You will see them going up, the bull salmon, the little fellows you know, the bulls; you will see two of them going up side and side, and I have watched them for hours fighting. And they keep fighting all the time. You catch them in the lake or when they first show up in the mouth of these little streams they are bright just like a salmon, and after they have been up, a few miles up this creek for a week or so they turn red; the skin is perfectly red. Salmon trout, you know; they dont run in schools either.

Q. When do you get the salmon trout?

A. Well, I have never caught any down there. They catch lots of them up here at the head - at the mouth of Junicum Creek. I caught one of them down at the mouth of the Quinnault, but I never was able to catch one at the mouth of the Osette. They are all over there. Grays Harbor is a great place for them. I know one old fellow used to catch them with

hook and line, and he would put up several kits of them and give them to the sailors and they would take them to San Francisco and sell them.

There was an article in one of the papers here once about these bull sharks, and this article went on to tell what the fish was like, and it went on to say that the London Museum had offered -- I forget how many hundred pounds for the head of one of these large sharks, and it all came from Mr. Gilbert, and it set me to thinking, and I says why I am acquainted with Prof. Gilbert and we have his address, and I will drop him a few lines and find out what there is in that; if it is a fact we can flood London with sharks from here. They call them bull sharks here. So Gilbert answered the letter and he said there was a time when the London Museum had offered a great price for one, but since that - it was a good many years ago - and since then they had got them and could get all they wanted, and he says that is like all other newspaper yarns; these reporters could never get anything straight. We thought we were going to do a land office business there,

and were figuring on selling half a dozen in this country. The Indians get them every summer; they are great for their oil. In 1880 I was at Osette buying fur seals for a Seattle firm and the Indians said if we would get oil barrels they would get a lot of oil, and Baxter sent down 40 or 50 oil tanks, and they went out after dark one morning in 3 canoes and that night they came back, each one of them loaded down, and I went down to see what they had, and they just had the livers; they cut them right on the top of the water and the liver floated out of them and they let the carcass go and saved the liver, and each of those livers filled a canoe. Well, I went to buying it, and when they had it all tried out and the last gallon was in I had 529 gallons of oil out of the 3 livers, and you can imagine what the size of the livers was. The oil is worth very little now, however, but it used to be in great demand. I have seen it as high as 15 cents a gallon on the Sound.

Q. Now, the fur seal; how many fur seal pups do you have here around Neah Bay?

A. Oh, I dont know. The majority of the

skins that come in in the early part of the season are pups, and that is all I know about it.

Q. What I mean is young pups, just born.

A. Well, they are not born there. I never saw one born there, but they are so far gone in the latter part of May and first of June that you can cut the young one out and it will live. Well, you see, right then they begin to disappear; along about the middle of June you don't see any seal around there. I have seen the beach covered with dead pups that had been brought in and cut from the old ones.

Q. Aren't the skins of dead pups good for anything?

A. No; they are just a lot of short, woolly hair, probably some of it $1/8$ inch long. Judge Swan thinks the fur seal gives birth to its pups somewhere around in Neah Bay in the water. It may in Neah Bay.

Q. We consider that is impossible as the pups cannot swim at all until they are a few weeks old.

A. Yes; they will swim younger than that. I had one taken from an old one about 3 days before I got it, and an Indian gave it to me

when I came there, and I only had it 2 weeks and it died, and I used to take it down in the morning, and put on long gum boots and would go down to the edge of the beach and wade out as far as I could and drop the little fellow down, and the first morning he could not swim, and he made a terrible fluttering and floundering, and I picked him up and took him back up stairs again, and the next morning he could swim a very little swim around 3 or 4 times and got tired and came to me and tried to creep up my leg.

Q. That was 5 days?

A. Yes, about that time? It could not have been longer than that. At the end of a week he could swim for 5 minutes, and when he got tired he would come to me and crawl up my leg. It does not take them long to learn. You take the sea otter, they breed right out in the ocean.

Q. You think it could be possible for the fur seal to deposit its young in the water?

A. Oh, I do, most decidedly, but I don't think they do, because look at the number of years they have been following the fur seal around here, and no one has ever seen one yet

with its young. Now, you can go and take the sea otter where they are having their young on the water and you will see them every day, but the seals have been followed from Cape Flattery to Bering Sea and no one has ever seen a seal and her young out in the ocean yet.

Q. You have never heard of any seals hauling out there, even accidentally, to give birth to pups?

A. No, sir. You never see any after the middle of June here. They disappear, and you might take one the first of June; you take one along the first week of June and you cut the young one out and he is pretty well haired; his hide is well covered, and he is a good size and his eyes are bright, and cut him out and he will begin to crawl right away and play like a lamb, and he will nurse a bottle right away, and will swim within 3 or 4 days. One as young as that -- say they give birth to them in the middle of June -- they would not be strong enough to swim that distance to get from here to Bering Sea. You see, when they leave here they go straight for Bering Sea, because after they leave here you don't see anything more of

them until they are up there.

Q. Do you think those exceptional cases you speak of where the young have been taken in such an advanced stage, that the mother could reach Bering Sea in time before the birth of the pup?

A. Well, it seems rather queer.

Q. Or might it be possible that those are females accidentally left behind?

A. Oh, no; not they. They are all the same. You can catch a dozen seals and you can take the young out of every one of them, and he will live until he starves to death.

Q. What times was it they disappeared from here totally?

A. Along about the middle of June. You see, they quit sealing about that time. By the 25th of June there is not a seal in the country and the schooners going north following up that Vancouver coast never see any seals until they get inside of the Sea up there, so when they leave here they must travel awfully fast. It is possible that some that lags behind, as they surely do, some of them; you can go off there

in the end of the season you will not see many seals, but you will see a straggling one every day, and they lag behind, and it is possible that occasionally one like that does not get up there in time and drops her young outside, and if she does she can take care of it, and it can take care of itself too.

Q. What did you feed yours?

A. Cow's milk.

Q. With a bottle?

A. Yes, sir. He died; he got bound up; I guess the milk was too strong for him or something. I was quite a shaver in those times and felt awfully bad about it. That little fellow, as soon as he would hear the door open down below, - he was up stairs -- and as soon as he heard that door open and shut he would begin to blat. I used to feed him 3 or 4 times a day, and he would scold like a little tiger, and he would finish the bottle and I would put him in his box and he would go right to sleep in a very few minutes. A person could raise them very easy; all you would have to do would be to give them something to keep their bowels open. I was not satisfied and wanted to know

what made him die, and so I cut him open and examined him, and found out that is what it was. There are hundreds of them down there laying out on the beach in the sealing season.

Q. Is there an agent there? I wonder if we could send to the Indian agent there and get him to pack up a box of skulls?

A. There are no skulls there now. The season is over now and the surf washes them out, and then, as a general thing, they are all smashed in anyway. You see, as soon as they spear a seal they have to club him.

Q. What sort of weather did you have during the sealing season this year? Were you off in the tug at that time?

A. No, sir; but it was terrible stormy weather. You see, the first of May the sealing is closed out here - May and June - a part of June; they are the only months that you can do anything down there at all, and now they are shut off those 2 months and the consequence is they get no seals.

Q. Was this year stormier than usual?

A. Yes; it was pretty bad down there. You

see, the biggest catch made down there was only about 300 skins this year.

Q. Do you know anything about the halibut grounds off there, particularly?

A. Well, no; any more than I know where they are.

Q. Do the Indians catch halibut much still?

A. Oh, yes; they are not catching as much this year. They are catching less this year than I ever knew them to before.

Q. Why?

A. I dont know the reason -- Well, there is more of them gone north sealing. Last year and hitherto American pelagic sealers were white men who were not used to using the spear. I will tell you, the schooners; the British schooners; that seal off the Cape here they used Indians and when they went north they were right here and they took them with them, while the American schooners went to the coast of Japan with white crews for shooting, and they took those same crews right into the Sea. You cannot get an Indian crew to go to Japan, and it is only the last couple of years you can get them to go to Bering Sea. But then, I always

understood they did very well; better than they expected. And another thing, they were not kept for spearing; as soon as they left the Japan coast it was each man shift for himself and get a rig the best way he could and get what he could.

Q. You said more Indians had gone up this year than last; do you mean with American sealers?

A. Yes; from Neah Bay. They have 4 sea-going schooners down there.

Q. How big are their vessels?

A. From 40 to 60 tons. They will go right up into the Sea and fish during this fall season.

Q. They all ought to do well, ought they not?

A. Well; they did not do very well last year.

Q. Did they try it last year?

A. Oh, yes; they have been going up there for 3 or 4 years.

Q. But, I thought with their spears they might.

A. Oh; an Indian; they are indifferent

sealers on this side; I believe the best sealers are on the other side; that is Vancouver Indians. You take it at Neah Bay it is pretty hard to rustle one crew of 12 sealers at Neah Bay who are good, the balance of them are poor, and I contend that white men will make better sealers with the spear than the Indians. I know there I have seen several young fellows I am acquainted with that never handled spears before, and here last year a young fellow, half-breed, went out from here -- he was a No. 1 sealer with a gun -- he goes out with his spear and he comes back high-line of the fleet of Neah Bay schooners, the first year he ever speared.

Q. They claimed last year that by this year the whites in the American fleet would be better spearers.

A. Oh, yes; you see there is a certain amount of superstition about the Indians; they have to have things just so or he will not do anything. Take the majority of them they will not take any chances. You put a white man out there and he sees a seal and he will take chances to get him. If he has to make a long

throw he will take the chances, while an Indian wants to get right close so he can jab them, and will not throw a spear at all.

Q. How far up the Straits do the fur seal come?

A. Well, nowadays they dont come but very little inside the mouth of the Straits. When I first went to Neah Bay they used to catch them up at Clallam, 20 miles inside the Straits.

Q. Do stragglers ever come up as far as Clallam?

A. Well, years before that the Indians said they used to come up as far as Dungeness. The Clallam Indians used to get good catches up at Clallam Bay. The black cod are the only fish that I think are fit to eat; that is except the quinnault. One fellow caught 80 down there the other day, but they dont like to catch them as there is no market for them around here.

We were out the other day where the Indians had captured a whale, and we were helping them, and the captain had a 45 rifle, and we were afraid the whale was going to get away from us, and he says, "tickle him up with the

gun, Charley", and I grabbed the gun and let have, and he was not over 50 yards off, and I shot for his eye, and I stunned him. He was towing 4 canoes and a lot of buoys as fas a we could steam, and we could hear the bullet strike, and he stopped dead off with his head down, and he remained in that position 30 seconds, and when he came up he went circling and he came to the boat and then went inshore, and after that the boats could paddle right around him, and they had no more trouble with him. This whale was 33 feet long. It was one of the Cape Flattery whales. ~~ixaxaxaxaxaxix~~ Judge Swan says it was a California grey. I shot a whale off Dungeness as he was going from me, and shot him under the fin on his back, and he jumped clean out of water.

CAPTAIN MANUEL ENOS, PORT TOWNSEND, WASH.,

AUGUST 6, 1895.

(Interviewed by Richard Rathbun).

Came from Boston on the Oscar & Hattie.

Came around the Horn with her almost 8 years ago, about 1888, the same year that the Mollie Adams and the Webster came around.

Q. You know Alexander, of the Albatross?

A. I have heard of him, but never saw him.

Q. Did you stay with the Oscar & Hattie long?

A. I left the Oscar & Hattie when we got out here and then shipped on the Mollie Adams.

Q. Do you remember much about your halibut work in the early part?

A. We did get halibut down there very early, I think it was May.

Q. What were the seasons when you used to fish?

A. May, June, July, August and the last of September they went up.

Q. That is on Flattery Bank?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did not fish in any other place that year?

A. No, sir.

Q. Nor on any of the little places inside there?

A. No, sir; not in those vessels; they were too large.

Q. Did any of those vessels go north halibut fishing?

A. The next year we went north on the Oscar & Hattie again with the same man who had the Webster. We went as far as Sitka, but did not fish any except with trolls, and then we left Sitka and came down to the Queen Charlotte Islands, and that is where we got the trip of fish.

Q. Where did you get that trip?

A. Right off Roe Spit, between the Island and the mainland.

Q. Did you try outside the island at all?

A. No, sir; we never have fished outside the island, and dont now. I dont think anybody has tried outside the Queen Charlotte Islands, because they get plenty of fish inside. I have

been up there 3 trips now; made 2 trips in the St. Lawrence last winter.

Q. You have been fishing more than those 3 trips up there?

A. Oh, yes; I have been up there 4 years now.

Q. How long have they been fishing around the Queen Charlotte Islands regularly?

A. I think the second year after we came out here was the first; that is to do any business.

Q. It has been kept up right along since?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When was that, in 1889 or 1890?

A. Well, it is 7 years since we were here, and 6 years ago was the first fishing we did in the Queen Charlotte Islands. We were up as far as Sitka, but did not get any fish and came back to the Queen Charlotte Islands. That is the next year after we came out here.

Q. How many vessels have been going up there each year?

A. Well; that year there were 3 different vessels, and this year I guess there are 5 or 6.

Q. The first year you say there were 3, in 1889?

A. Yes; the Oscar & Hattie, Mollie Adams and Webster.

Q. When did the number increase?

A. Well, they have increased this last 2 years.

Q. Where is the Webster now?

A. I believe she was down at 'Frisco.
I think she is owned in 'Frisco.

Q. How long did she stay around here?

A. Only that year.

Q. She did not go halibuting after the first year?

A. No; she went sealing.

Q. How long did the Mollie Adams go halibuting?

A. She went up there 2 years, I think it was.

Q. Two years inside the Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And then she went sealing?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the Oscar & Hattie?

A. Well, she went up there the same 2

years.

Q. Which of those vessels has been wrecked?

A. The Webster. She was wrecked up north in some place.

Q. This side or the other?

A. I don't know, I am sure.

Q. Well, now, what are the vessels that go up there; what sort of vessels are they?

A. Oh, they are vessels from 25 to 40 tons.

Q. And that is all?

A. That is the biggest.

Q. What is the size of the Mollie Adams?

A. She is 116 and the Oscar & Hattie 81 and the Webster 90.

Q. These vessels are not half the size of those?

A. They are building them larger now all the time.

Q. What are they, new vessels built for that purpose?

A. Oh, yes; all new vessels.

Q. Where are they owned, in Seattle?

A. Well, all around. There is one in Scow Bay, but the most of them are owned in Seattle. There is one in Tacoma I believe.

Q. Are Ainsworth & Dunn the only firm that

engages in the halibut fishing from Seattle?

A. Well, they are the only firm that do any business; they do the biggest business. All the rest is small markets.

Q. Does anybody else ship east except Ainsworth & Dunn?

A. No, sir; I don't think there is. That is, from Seattle.

Q. The other vessels ship from Tacoma?

A. Oh, there is 2 vessels running up there, one of them is 14 tons and the other 25 tons.

Q. Do they go up to the Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. No; they go up as far as Cape Scott.

Q. You said there were 5 or 6 went to the Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. They all fish in between the island and the mainland?

A. Yes, sir; between the mainland and Queen Charlotte.

Q. Whereabouts in there? Can you describe it without a map?

A. Well, I could not say exactly. It is

between Queen Charlotte Island and the mainland. There is lots of islands between Queen Charlotte Island the mainland, and it is between these islands and Queen Charlotte Islands.

Q. What depth of water?

A. All the way from 20 to 45 fathoms.

There is a regular sand spit up there, and we have been up in 12 fathoms of water.

Q. What island does the spit run out from?

A. It runs out -- there is a head there; I forget what they call it.

Q. You dont fish towards the southern part of the island, but the northern?

A. Yes, sir; to the northward. There is a gully that makes north and south between the islands and Queen Charlotte Islands, and we fish in that gully.

Q. Do you fish down toward the southern part of the islands?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever fish off the northern end of the islands?

A. We never fished any other place only right in there (referring to map).

Q. You never sounded around the outside of

these islands?

A. No, sir; we have never been outside of them.

Q. How about Cape Scott and down here to Vancouver Island?

A. Those islands to the end of Vancouver - Scotts Island -- that is where they fish; just 7 or 8 miles off the land, and in about 40 fathoms of water.

Q. Did you ever fish there?

A. Oh, yes; I was up there last fall in the El Decito.

Q. Do these big vessels go up there?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Any particular season?

A. Well, they dont go there before May.

Q. When do you fish around the Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. Oh, we can fish there the year around. We were up there last winter in February. You can fish there the year round. Of course there is bad weather sometimes, but there are places you can run into for shelter.

Q. How many trips will a vessel make in a year?

A. Well, that depends a good deal upon the weather.

Q. Yes, but on an average?

A. Well, if she makes a trip in 4 or 5 weeks she is making pretty good time.

Q. Then she would keep going and coming?

A. Yes, sir; that is fresh fishing.

Q. The whole year through would she make 12 trips?

A. Well; she would not make 12; generally she might make 10.

Q. Do you have any change in the halibut at different times?

A. Oh, yes; they shift around a good deal.

Q. Do you find them as abundant as you used to?

A. No, sir; last month; in June we were up there, and last February we were up there, and there was fish just as thick as they could be, and last June there was not any fish at all, but there is a certain time in the year that they slack off, and then they come back again.

Q. When is the best time for fishing up there?

A. It is in the winter time; February, March and April are good months.

Q. But as a whole do you think the fish are any scarcer than they were?

A. No, sir; I think they are just as plentiful as they were the first year we went up.

Q. Have you seen the Victoria steamers up there at all?

A. Oh, yes; we saw them up there last winter.

Q. Fished right where you did?

A. Well, we were fishing one day amongst them, but we could not find fish enough; it was about 20 miles southeast from Roe Spit where they were fishing, down at a place called Bangs Island. We ~~stay~~ ^{stayed} there one day and the next day we worked a spit and got 31,000 in one day's fishing.

Q. Did you ever do any halibut fishing on the Atlantic coast?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do as well there as here?

A. No, sir; there are not as many fish there as here.

Q. Are they just as good?

A. No, sir; I dont think they are.

Q. What is the matter with them?

A. Well, the fish here seem to be softer.

Q. Dont they keep as well?

A. Yes; they keep as well, but it is not so much trouble getting them down there.

Q. How would it do to have a steamer to bring them down?

A. Well, it might do in the winter time, but I dont think it would pay.

Q. A good many vessels have been coming back within a week?

A. Oh, yes, but they have been fishing down at Cape Flattery. They have not been up as far as Cape Scott even. Where they make a trip in a week they go to the Cape and you can depend upon that.

Q. I saw in the papers notice of a good many arrivals, where were they from?

A. Some were from the north and some from Cape Flattery.

Q. You have not fished on Cape Flattery?

A. I did last summer.

Q. Were fish as abundant as they were in

A. No, sir. That is the small bank, and there is not so many fish as there were the first year.

Q. How far north do you fish on that bank, as far as Barclay Sound?

A. Yes, sir; you can fish there, but they never fish off Barclay Sound; they go about 12 miles from the Cape to the Westward, and off southwest. I was off there last fall 40 or 50 miles.

Q. How deep was the water?

A. All the way from 60 to 90 fathoms.

Q. Can you give the exact direction?

A. Well, I think that is about as near as you can get at it, southwest.

Q. And 40 miles you say from Cape Flattery or 40 miles from land?

A. 40 miles from the Cape.

Q. Do they get good fares of halibut?

A. They do sometimes, but they dont go off there as far as that very often, unless they find them scarce inside. The St. Lawrence was off there and the El Docedo.

Q. How large is the St. Lawrence?

A. Well, she is about 40 tons, and the

E1 Docedo I think is 16 tons. She goes up to Cape Scott, and went up to Queen Charlotte Islands last winter.

Q. Who are the owners of these vessels in Tacoma; is there any fishing firm there?

A. There is a firm up there buying fish, but I dont know who they are I am sure. There is only one company there buying any fish.

Q. How large do the halibut run up north at the Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. Well, they dont run so large as they do on the Atlantic coast. You get a fish weighing 175 or 180 lbs. and it is a pretty big fish.

Q. What would be the average size?

A. The average size would be about 50 lbs.; between 50 and 60 lbs.

Q. Do you get anything else with the halibut up there when you are fishing halibut?

A. Not up north you dont; once in a while you will get one of those red cod.

Q. You fish with troll lines entirely?

A. Yes, sir. There is plenty of dog fish.

Q. What bait do you use?

A. Oh; we use the halibut themselves.

Last winter we used herring, however. If we go

fresh fishing we use herring, but if we go salt fishing we use halibut.

Q. What do you mean by fresh fishing, fletching?

A. Yes, sir. I was in the St. Lawrence last winter, and then came home and shipped in the Anna M. Nicholson, fletching.

Q. What do they do with the fletched halibut?

A. This man shipped them back east, to Gloucester.

Q. Most of them are shipped to Gloucester?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Dont you ship them all fresh?

A. Well, I dont know I think he made a contract with somebody for so many fletchers, and he put the vessel at it. I dont think they are shipping any fresh fish back there this summer; not since last winter; that is to Gloucester.

Judge Swam:- They ship from here about the time they dont have much fish there.

Q. Do you know whether any of the cod vessels that go up to Alaska get halibut or not?

A. Well, I dont know only the Colby that

is cod fishing out of the Sound here, and she belongs to Anacortes. She is 145 tons. She belongs to Mr. Mattison. I dont think the cod fishermen get many halibut. She makes just one trip a year. She fishes up at the Okhotsk Sea. I think she was up in the Bering Sea last year if I am not mistaken.

Q. One thing that I am interested in finding out is if there are halibut fisheries off the islands; outside the islands, because there is no telling when Great Britain will shut down on this inside fishing.

A. Well, you see, there has never been any of these fishermen tried outside.

Judge Swan:- There are any quantity of halibut around the Queen Charlotte Islands. At Skitigit they have oil works for putting up dog fish oil and in fishing for dog fish they used to get any quantity of halibut and did not want them as they were after dog fish.

Q. Dixon Entrance is at the north end of Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. Yes, sir. We were up as far as St. Pauls Island, about 35 miles to the northward of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Q. Did you get anything there?

A. Oh, we did not fish there, but went there just to load some salt. But there were a couple of small boats there from here and they said there were plenty of halibut, but they were too small; they were too small for our use. They go from 40 to 50 lbs.

Q. You would not be satisfied with that size?

A. Not for fletchers, no, sir. We have to have them up to a certain mark; 24 inches after the meat is cut clear of the bone.

Q. How do you cut the meat for fletchers?

A. Cut them down the side. The head, back bone and tail is all thrown overboard together and only just the meat took off. We cut right down each side just in a little ways so as to get in started, and there is one man on each side of the halibut and he cuts in so as to get hold of the meat, and they get hold of the tail and rip the meat right off, and then turn them over and do the same on the other side.

Q. What becomes of the bone?

A. We heave all that stuff overboard; we just take the flesh.

Q. That flesh must be how long?

A. Well, it can be not smaller than 24 inches long.

Q. That is about the size of the cod when it is prepared, is it not?

A. Yes. I think it is about the same back east. These have to be 24 inches after they are salted. Halibut shrink a good deal.

Q. For fresh halibuting, 40 or 50 lbs. would be large enough?

A. Oh, yes; plenty. It dont make any difference how large they are fresh fishing. They would rather have the small halibut than the big ones.

Q. The most important thing to find out about southeast Alaska is whether halibut occur there and what their size is?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Halibut would be more important than any other fish there?

A. I think halibut run larger in the winter time than in the summer, and I know they run more plentiful.

Q. How much longer would it take you to go to southeast Alaska than to Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. I dont know; perhaps 3 or 4 days each way on an average.

Q. The main thing is to protect the American fishermen and show them where the fish can be taken up there, and what the extent of the fisheries are?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. So in case their grounds have to be given up they can know where to go. Do any Canadian sailing vessels go up to the Queen Charlotte Islands for halibut?

A. I have never seen any. I have been there 4 years and never saw any yet.

Judge Swan:- I think those Canadian steamers get most of their halibut off Norwitti bar.

A. I will tell you where they get the most halibut: as you go into the Skeena, right off there is where these steamers were fishing last winter, because we fished there one afternoon with them in the St. Lawrence. They were not getting many fish there, and the next night we went up to Roe Spit and got 31,000 lbs. of them;

just one day's fishing. I have seen the month of June when there was no fish there at all, only scattering ones, right in the same depth of water.

Q. Vessels, the different sizes have different numbers of men and different numbers of boats dont they?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. How many small boats would there have been to those 6 vessels?

A. Oh, every vessel had 6 dories apiece, and 2 men to each dory, and the captain and cook were left aboard.

Q. How many do these vessels carry now?

A. Oh, they carry all the way from 5 to 8 men. They only carry about 3 dories, and some 2. I think the most of them have 3 dories. The St. Lawrence has 3 and the El Docedo 2, and the Nixon has 3. None of them takes over 3.

Q. How many hooks do they use to a dory?

A. Well, they use 600 hooks; between 600 and 700 hooks to each dory.

Q. You will get 30,000 lbs. of halibut with that amount?

A. Yes, sir. It is what they call 4

skates of gear. There is supposed to be 150 or 160 on each one. There is 300 fathoms in those bunches. Each dory would have 2 men and 4 skates of gear, and each skate has 6 lines, between 150 and 160 hooks to the skate. Each line is 50 fathoms long and has 6 lines to each skate; that is 300 fathoms to a skate. The hooks are bout 2 fathoms apart. We dont measure it, but just guess at it you know.

Q. What surprises me is that you should make such short trips with so little gear.

A. Yes; that is all we fish, and we filled our boat in one day up there, just as much as she could carry with the ice. She carries all the way from 7 to 10 tons of ice.

Q. How do you pack your fish?

A. We just put them in pens. We have regular pens in the hold.

Q. What do you have to pay for ice generally?

A. \$5.50. We paid \$22.50 a ton the first year we came out here, and it was hard work to get it at that. We were up to a glacier in the Oscar & Hattie, and we loaded up full of ice

That was the first year we came out here.

Q. Was it very solid ice?

A. Oh, yes; we just hauled alongside one of those icebergs and filled her full.

Q. Iceberg or glacier?

A. One of those icebergs that come floating around there. That was nice ice too. We had bars made here before we went away on purpose for the business.

Q. Did Jacobs himself go out on those trips?

A. No, sir. The man that is in the St. Lawrence now was in the Oscar & Hattie one year, and the man who came out here in her, Capt. Johnson, I believe he went down to San Francisco and died down there. He left a nice wife and family back east in Marblehead. They are all nice people around Marblehead and Lynn. I have seen them up at Sitka go right in the water bathing in the winter. The water up there is warmer in the winter than the air.

Judge Swan:- The water here is warmer than the air in the winter.

Q. You never have done any salmon fishing?

A. No, sir. I have been going fishing ever since I was 12 years old, and I am 41 now. That summer we came out here I was mackerel catching out of Swampscott, but outside of that I was always fishing out of Gloucester. I was in a vessel called the Alice Hawks. We always did well there. We used to fish around Block Island for those big mackerel. There used to be lots of mackerel out south there in the spring. I was down off Prince Edward Island one year, and they seized a schooner there, the Highland Light. It was about 4 years before we came out here. We were right alongside her when she got seized, and it was the captain's own fault, because we gave him warning, but it was very tempting, so many mackerel in there. It is a good climate here, but I think I would rather live on the Atlantic coast than here; it seems more at home there, although all my folks are out here. They live down at Oakland.